

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING SUPPORT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF LAWS
PROHIBITING ANIMAL CRUELTY.

1 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of animals is a reflection of
2 society; and

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4 WHEREAS, the State has an interest in protecting the
5 welfare of dogs and cats from cruelty and exploitation, as well
6 as protecting Hawaii's consumers from less-than-reputable pet
7 dealers; and

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9 WHEREAS, each legislative session, citizens come forward to
10 seek the introduction of legislation prohibiting acts of cruelty
11 and neglect toward animals to address situations that have
12 arisen in their communities; and

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14 WHEREAS, the growing concerns signify the need for stronger
15 laws against animal abuse; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature has offered solutions through the
18 introduction of legislation proposing stronger protections
19 against animal cruelty as well as increased penalties for
20 violators of animal cruelty laws; and

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22 WHEREAS, one example of such legislation is S.B. No. 1301
23 ("Hope's Law"), introduced during the Regular Session of 2015,
24 which:

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26 (1) Requires dog license holders to notify the Director of
27 Finance of transfer of the dog or be held liable
28 following the transfer for any acts of animal cruelty;
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30 (2) Requires dog license holders to provide the Director
31 of Finance with the dog's microchip identification;
32 and
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34 (3) Deems depriving a dog of necessary sustenance as
35 cruelty to animals in the second degree; and
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1 WHEREAS, despite the enactment of several animal cruelty
2 offenses, local humane societies, law enforcement agencies, and
3 animal protection groups continue to receive alarming reports of
4 acts of cruelty to animals; and

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6 WHEREAS, the introduction of legislation prohibiting and
7 penalizing particularly alarming acts of animal cruelty is
8 intended to curb animal abuse and cruelty; and

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10 WHEREAS, one example of such legislation is S.B. No. 773,
11 introduced during the Regular Session of 2015, which:

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13 (1) Prohibits the slaughtering or trafficking of dogs or
14 cats or possessing of dog or cat products for human
15 consumption; and

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17 (2) Amends the relevant portion of the definition of "pet
18 animal" as used in chapter 711, Hawaii Revised
19 Statutes, to mean any dog or cat, regardless of
20 whether the dog or cat was bred for consumption; and

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22 WHEREAS, the absence of comprehensive laws prohibiting
23 animal cruelty complicates the process of finding and holding an
24 individual responsible in cases of abuse toward animals; now,
25 therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
29 that this body is urged to strongly support the strengthening of
30 laws prohibiting animal cruelty; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
34 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director of
35 Health, and Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

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38 OFFERED BY: 



